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Date _____

Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

COIT ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/721,479

Art Unit: 1648

Filing Date: November 22, 2000

Examiner: S. Brown

Title: NOVEL HCV NON-STRUCTURAL POLYPEPTIDE

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed March 11, 2003, with a shortened statutory period of three months for response. Accordingly, an extension of time in which to respond is requested and a petition and appropriate fee accompany this response. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.